All told, there were about fifteen hundred people on the Cotton Queen that night. They were of all sorts and

conditions. There were planters and their families returning from an early visit to the north; speculators by the score who had been up to Memphia and beyond to look over the crop; some, like myself, from the north, going down the river upon errands of business or pleasure; not a few sporting men, who frequented the bar, talked loud and smoked long cigars, and there was a Virginian taking thirty slaves of both sexes to New Orleans for sale I had seen something already of the grand scale upon which the large river boats were constructed; but the magnificence of this one amazed me-Everything in the way of gliding, dec-orating and furnishing that could be done was there, regardless of expense. Tall mirrors in the saloons and cabins orating and furnishing that could be done was there, regardless of expense. Tall mirrors in the saloons and cabins multiplied the crowd. Carpets of gargeous pattern and the first texture were under foot. Profusion and variety of viands were at the crowded tables at mealtimes. I walked about and mingled with the passengers, hearing much talk of the immense cotton.

"Now, I've done with you, you miscrable, clumsy cheat" the man with the pistol said. "You ought to be lynched. You're a disgrace to the company of all gentlemen; but "Lynch him! Throw him into the river! Drown him! Tie him fast to a nigger!" came a shower of suggestions.



TWO MEN SAT AT THE TABLE PLAYING

and sugar yield which the season promised, and of speculations and bar-gains in which less figures than a hundred thousand dollars were never gains in which less against the strength of the gains in which less against the strength of the gainst and confident. Life seemed to be going on, like the boat that carried us, at high pressure.

Aslock did I occupy my the strength of the

at high pressure.

Until ten o'clock did I occupy myself in visiting every part of the
steamer, and observing the passengers
and their different tastes and occupations. In one of the large saloons
there was dancing and waitzing, to
the music of piano and violin. On the
stear deck a brass band was pouring
and bundreds

the situation of anarch, the
cede for the enlangered man.

"For God's sake, gentlemen, what's
the matter? Don't have any violence
there."

"It's only a — card-sharp we're going to give a ducking."

"It's next time we made an example of some of these blacklers who
travel along the river, fleecing honest of couples were promenading. The moon had by this time risen, and the spectacle of her flood of light on the wide river was grand indeed. Rafts and flat-boats were passed, as well as smaller freight-boats; and once the steam-pipes of the Queen acroamed shrill in answer to the salute of a large

ateamer going up.
"That's the Prentiss," a man near mo said. "Some day they'll happen to come together, going the same way; and then there'll be the biggest race this river over naw. Both captains are eager for it, and there'd be piles of money bet on it. I'd hope to be there that day."

Boston inquired.

"Dangerous" Well, maybe, a little, sel was approved.

"liut you'll set him ashore?" sems one suggested.

"With great pleasure. There's in the great pleasure. Steamboats always have raced, and I reckon they always will. I feel myself just this way about it—that if I owned one of these boats, and she couldn't carry steam enough to beat the other without bursting—why, then let her burst, and be d—d to her."
"But the passengers"

"But the passengers?"
"I should say they'd better be at "I should say they home, that trip." I went forward and found a large number greatly interested in the performances of one of the negro hands, who was dancing in a grotesque hands, who was dancing in a grotesque hands. Then I went below, past the gilded and mirrored mahogany bar-counters, when half-a-dozen men in their shirt-alceves were mixing fancy drinks for a actives were mixing rancy drinks for a noisy and thirsty crowd. Around a table in an adjoining salcon so many were pressing that I could not see what the attraction was. They stood on tiptoe and tried to peer over the shoulders of those in front of them. A large chandeller lighted the room, but the point of interest was concealed. but the point of interest was concealed by the throng.

The pressure soon became so great that I was crowded up against the wall. More to save myself from suffocation than from curiosity, I reached up to the top of a door-casing, put my foot on the knob, and was at once able to elevate myself over all heads, and look directly down upon the table. The position was uncomfortable but I The position was uncomfortable; but I was not compelled to keep it more than

Two men sat at the table playing cards. The one facing me I recognized at once as he who had been pointed out to me by Mr. Dorion as Conrad Bostock.

The crowd overtopped them, hung

over them, but they paid no attention to anything but their game.

Piles of gold and notes were upon the table. I could not see what the game was or how it was being played; but it was apparent that Bostock was largely the winner. The pile of money. e winner. The pile of money in front of him steadily increased, and he light sound of cards striking the able was now and then punctuated by omething like an eath from the other

Suddenly this man made a noise that sounded like a deep growl, and drawing a knife from his sleeve planed to the table the card that his opponent had just played. And so

but a single motion, he drew a re-volver, cooked it and pointed it at the other's head.

The crowd fell back in fright; some

were thrown down and trampled under foot, some were carried back against the wall, and many who could fiel from the room. The two gamblers ant motionless.

"You wouldn't send a man out of

the world this way?" the one who was threatened by the pistol said.
"I ought to, you cheating scoundrel! Sir," to a bystander, "just look at this ace of diamonds that he played last. Now look at the trumps he's played there, and see if there ain't another of

The man addressed ran over the cards, and quietly threw out another.
"I thought so; I thought I was cheated, an hour back, but I couldn't lay my finger on the spot till this min-ute. I'm going to take every dollar of that money. Dan Turner, rake it in."

igger!" came a shower of suggestion

on the crowd. The object of their attentions turned pale. I had marveled to see his com-posure when the muzzle of the re-volver was at his forehead; but he doubtless was thoroughly acquainted with his own class, and knew that a there was no danger of more than a menace from that quarter, provided he sat still and made no resistance. But when those hostile cries were heard, he realized his danger at once. He was among gamblers, sporting men, specuators and adventurers; many of them ad been drinking freely; his offense was something each man, by reason of its own mode of life, was prepared to regard as a personal lumit and injury.
And he probably knew, too, that no wild least of the forest or the wild is So ernel in its rare as a growd of men. No time was allowed him to think about it. A rush was made for him; a

"Pd like to have him put down in is furnace-room, till the boat gets to ow Orleans."

New Orleans."
"Save me, Capt. Norris," the wretehed man exclaimed.

"Aht—is it you, Con Bostock;" the
captain cried. "I know you of old.
Gentlemen, just spare him this time,
and if he ever dares to come aboard
the Orecen perils you can draw him. the Queen again, you can drown him o hang him, for all I care. Hat to night, please let's have no violence. It might hart the good name of my boat."

ager for it, and there'd be piles of oney bet on it. I'd hope to be there agitain's interference had given two minutes for reflection; and when a male can be got to think, there is hope of it.

"With great pleasure. There's a landing two miles below: he'll have to walk two miles to find a house."

The crowd became good humored a the idea, and sundry coarse jokes wet cut at the expense of the gambler's plight. The boat was soon brought to the shore, and he was unceremoniously landed. I did not expect ever to see his coarse, depraved face again; but it was with me as it ever is—"man proposes, God disposes.

The ever-changing scenes of the recat river interested me, and I could nove studied for days the varying phases of human nature about me; but s current and stream bore as rapidl orn, the object of my journey presend on my thoughts, and it was with ger alacrity that I stepped ashore at onldsonville, at the head of Bayo La Fourche. With a few others an with my small luggage I was trans erred to a small steamer, and the less w intles of my journey we followed c course of the bayon. For the first time I was in that land

of wonders, lower Louisiana. I was floating on one of the multitude of streams, which, more than one han-dred miles above the Belta of the Mississippi, help to carry off the great pressure of waters to the gulf. Other approaches salt water he is competted to send off other rivers to relieve hima might be said, by the continual de posit of soil brought down by the tire-less water giant and thrust out into the gulf. As the post Longfellow finely says of this strange phenom-enon, he

suce the falls in his hands and drugs ther

I was in that region which is not ally at most wasons below the level of the streams, where great lerees or banks are built upon each side to confine the water to its own bed. the summit of these levees, high above our heads as we steamed along, we saw negro men and women walking, carrytumense bundles and even jars full of water upon the bare crown with-out a touch of the hand. At times the

bends of the bayou enabled us to roos bends of the bayou enabled us to rook beyond the levees over a section of the country and see vast plantations green with the miniature forests of the sugar-cane. It is here, in this rich, black soil, that the most prolific sugar-country in North America is found. The population was almost evenly divided between white and black; the larger part of the former was of French de-scent; the French language was much spoken, and French names of persons and places were the most common. and places were the most come

me this was all new and strange. and I was asking many questions about these strange features of the land when the beat stopped and the captain announced "Bostock's." I was the sole passenger landed here. Engaging a lusty and lazy negro to carry my trunk and show me the way, I took the last steps of my journey with throbbing heart. All that Mr. with throbbing heart. All that Mr. Dorion had related, all that he had put into his warnings, recurred to me. I stopped. I shrank from the test that I had come two thousand miles to make "Dar am de house, maussa," said my

It was a large frame house with verandas above and below. It stood not two hundred yards back from the bayon. Stately cales, beautiful magnolias were before and around it, through which were seen glimpses of wide plantation lands. The day was hot, the sun oppressive.

As I advanced toward the house I saw a man scated in the shade, while an-other was speaking carnestly and with much gesticulation to him. I stopped, fearful of intruding, but I was already within earshot.
"A lazy, idle, sulky nigger, sir, I tell

He don't earn his salt. I'd have whated him long ago if you hadn't for-bidden me; and I must tell you, sir, if he ain't to be whipped, he'd better be old. Mayn't I send him over to New Orienns?"
The answer was inaudible.

The answer was insudible.

"Yes, sir, I know you don't like it;
but I'm convinced it's the only way to
manage. Well, then—if here ain't the
lazy devil right here now! The sassy Look here, you Jeremiah! Didn't I tell you to keep to the cane-hoeing all day? Where you been?" My attendant, balancing my trunk

upon his head, and spreading out his hands in a depreenting way, replied: "O: so yo' did, Maussa Le Feere, an' I meant to stay—'deed I did!—but I hear de boat a-comin' down de bayor



MY ATTENDANT BALANCED THE THUNK ON HIS HEAD.

an' I went down to see um, an' I'm totin' updis yer young maussa's trunk."
He put down the burden, and not waiting for the silver piece that I wished to give him he made a quick novement in the direction of the fields.

The overseer abruptly withdrew.

The man who was seated had his back to me, but by the looks of the overseer he must have known that there was somebody beside the truant negro behind him. He rose and turned round. It was a thin, bent figure, in a flowered dressing-gown and slippers. His hair presented that singular appearance caused by turning white in patches and streaks. His face was hollow and wrinkled; his eyes were

With the most apathetic expression he looked at me, and seemed to think that my appearance did not call for question or remark. At least he made

"I beg your pardon, sir," I said. "Is fr. Pierce Bostock at home? Can I see

"The overseer attends to all busi-ness," he said, peevishly. "Go to him;

"I have no business that he can at-

tend to. I must see Mr. Bostock per-sonally."
"Must you, indeed?" He began to rouse a little at the word, and show irritation. "Where do you come from, anyway, young man, that you think a La Fourche planter can be made to attend in person at the beck and call of every interloper who fancies he has business with him? What—" His own talk, delivered in a feeble,

broken voice, excited him and brought on a fit of coughing. He stamped with vexation, and sat down on a bamboo settee through sheer weakness.
"I am Pierce Bostock," he said, when

he could find voice again. "What the I ought to have expected this ar nowneement, and to have been prepared for it; but I felt very much at that in-stant as though I had been following a chimera. To be exact, I felt cold and sick, and the hopes of long years varished as a puff of smoke. And yet seemed incredible. This Mr. Bostos

ished as a pair of smode. And yet it is seemed incredible. This Mr. Bostock—this the hearty, rundy, happy planner who had crossed our story New Hampshire fields ten years before, and pushed out my horizon everywhere—this feeble, testy, drosping invalid?

My hopes were all turned to ashes on the spott yet I resolved to speak cert, and end the farce. He would not recognize me, or would bid me begone if he abould. No matter—I would see which he would do, and then tear this grad would do, and then tear this grad of out of the book of my life, and turn to other seemes.

Well-are you dumb? What do you v for yourself?"

Mr. Bostock, I am Dorr Jewett. Do A very faint appearance of Interest

A very faint appearance of Interest came to his face.

"Jewett" he repeated. "I believe I naed to hear that name. Why, yes; Amos Jewelt was my schoolfellow when I was a boy. Porr—Dorr" That was my father's name."

I saw that his mind was groping for manner, and I waited.

emory, and I waited

memory, and I waited.

He motioned me to sit down with
him. He looked at me, but was silent.

"Amos Jewett was my father," I
ventured. "Don't you remember soming to our poor Now Hampshire home
ten years ago, sir? Don't you remember how kind you were to us? I was
the low you took as much notice of." the boy you took so much notice of

He heard me, and the mists seemed dispelled from his brain as by magic. A look of surprised intelligence came

You Dorr Jewett? - little Dorr? lies me, how you have grown! I'm not often glad to see anyone but my child, in these days; but I am glad to see you. Is your father well?"
"Why, he died, sir, more than a year

ago. I wrote to you about it."

"I never read letters now—nor papers—nor books. Not now. Yet I do
remember a nice letter you wrote me
once, years ago, before—" ree, years ago, before—" The change that came over that wo

ful face terrified me. It was literally black with rage, with fury, called up

ful face terrified me. It was literally black with rage, with fury, called up by his own speech.

"Yes, it?" I hastened to say, "and you answered it so kindly."

"Did 12 That is well; I am glad to hear it. So you've come to look up a wretched and lonely old man like me, have you, hecause I was kind to you? Do you know, my boy, I don't think it there's another man in Louisians, or out of it, could soften me the way you have. I'm going to have you stay here, now you've come. Oh, yes, I do re, member now all about the time I went to Roston, and back among the hills where I was born, and how I foundy you and poor Ames out in the fields, and ale your good mother's mash and will be seen to make the word you man poor Ames out in the fields, and ale your good mother's mash and all. In a forgotten all these pleasant things. Why, boy, it seems to me as I you'd come to me from another word?.

"But it was long aro, and life has been hard and cruel with me stnee, and I had forgotten all these pleasant things. Why, boy, it seems to me as I you'd come to me from another word?.

"But it was long aro, and life has been hard and cruel with me stnee, and I had forgotten all these pleasant things. Why, boy, it seems to me as I'you'd come to me from another word?.

"But it was long aro, and life has been hard and cruel with me stnee, and I had forgotten all these pleasant things. "Always, Dorr; I want you with me, I returned the seems of the words and the words of the words and the words of the words are the words of the words and the word of the words and the word of the words and the word of the words are the words and the word of the words are with the word of the

A burst of melody shook the air; a lear, pure voice, singing a merry rench song. Mr. Hostock raised his end, and a new intelligence gave mo-

mentary Inster to his eyes.

"Ab, that's Coralie!" he said. "You shall see Coralie. Here she comes."

TO BE CONTINUES. A discrete from a discrete that Popularies I are then a decrees will be a decreen lighter of the roll in

tion dietie arbies that King Behavi

The entire tobox is has been nepted problem marry by the havy decrement as a result of the problem mary The Rallians Dut three officers an everal men during the battle with the berylebes fought recently near for

Agerratur. There were rumors at Pernambues that Adm. Mello had captural Rio da Janeiro and that President Prixoto

James A. Ruce, of Texas, clerk a

#1.000 per ansum in the pression bareau, has been dismissed for loaning money, at usurious rates, to other employes. A bomb charged with dynamite was exploded in the village of Soda, near Corunna. Spain. A drug store was wresked by the explosi a, but nobody

was killed. Cholera is increasing in St. Paters burg. There are 166 cases now in the hospital, and thirty-fourness cases and leven deaths from the disease were re

orted on the 21st. Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, is inter esting himself in a revival of the Tor-rey backraptcy bill and is quite san-guine of success, notwithstanding the defeat of the bill in the house.

Of the 200 veteran soldiers who were damed by eating putrid Lined in pies recently at the annual barquet held is the winter prizes at St. Petersburg 100 are still in a serious condition and thirty-six have died.

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## DOLEFUL DUN.

A Christman Jerom'ad from Commercial Agency.

TRADE IS PAST STURRING UP.

Vient Is Being Done Leaves No Margin for Profit Permiserry of the Hollday Business Foreign Trade

New Your, Dec. 10.-R. G. Don &

o 's Weekly Review says: The core a practically ever, except the hold av business, which is remarkably well nor

issues of bonds and a tax on incomes derived-rom corporations, at racts not much attention, but dorthbatanding the abundance of money the market is rather less confident in feeling. It is believed, however, that the usual pinch about January I will not occur. Falures for the week were itt in the United Since, against 193 last year, and 37 in Canada, against is last year.

Shocking Accident Occurs in a Lumber Mill by a Boiler Explosion. Mill by a Roller Explosion. KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 23.—A most shocking ancident occurred at noon. The boiler of the lumber mill of the Alexandria Lumber Co. exploded, kill-

ing four persons outright and seriously wound ng three others. The explosion came with terrific force, blowing the building to atoms The remains of the killed were terribly mangiest and found a long distance away. One body has not been found. and may never be. The mill stood on the bank of the river, and the body was doubtless torn into atoms and blown into the stream. Huge fragcents of the boiler were buried a hur dred feet away, one of them striking and breaking the timbers of the Mari-etts & North Virginia railroad bridge. The shocking accident casts a glo

## CORBETT AND MITCHELL.

The Governor of Florida Has No Desire to Aid the Prize Firkt. JACKSONVILLE, Fig., Des. 21.—The Duvai Athletic dub received a sorback restorday in its efforts to pull off the Corbett-Mitchell fight. The atterney for the club upp ared before tion for the club app ared before they Mitchell at Tallahassee and made ap plication for a charter. This the governor flatly refused stating that under cover of the charter the club proposed

to violate the laws of Florida. Of course this proved a bomb to the sports, and their consternation was further increased by the knowledge that a strong letter against the fight had been written by the governor to Mr L. R. Tysen, a prominent gentle-man of this city.

TODD UNDER ARREST. He Will Have to Answer a Charge of Assault.

KLDORADO, KRR., Dec. 23. -J. S. Coop. er, of Florence, arrived in this city las evening on the Santa Fe and immedi ately placed Labor Commissioner Told under arrest, charged with assault with intent to kill J. F. House, of Fier-ence. Mr. Told arrived in the morn ing from Kansas City, bearing marks of the battle. He was not surprised when arrested, saying he had been expecting it every day. A guard was placed to watch over him at his home nd he will be taken to Florence for

Adm Stanton Restored. Washinoron, Dec. 23. - Secretary Herbert gave out his decision last night in the case of Adm. Stanton, detached from command of the south At-lantic squadron for saleting the rebei leader Mello, in the harbor at Rio. The secretary restores Stauton to duty and assigns him to the command of the north Atlantic squadron, regarded as perhaps the choicest station to com-mand among them all.

Superintendency of Havkell Institut LAWMERCE, Kan., Dec 23 - Friends of tion. Seers will arge him for the position of superintendent of the In-dian school here, made vacant by the recignation of C. F. Meserve. Strong mmendations have been filed with department indorsing him. He was needstant superintendent at the school for ten years under Gov. Robinson.

Platy-five relironds, counting the Union Pacific system as one road, have gone into receivers' hands during the TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

Old Si-up-on-the-mount in 'd take his sheer Out on the porch, an' if the may was obear. If 'd see the country twenty miles eround. Sometimes he'd aware that he could see the

sound —
Then he'd allow he didn't care ter do
No work but not that an' enji' the view

Dut, on his fand was mostly wood an' stin, The willage scopic had a later fun 'Asua Shas an' his farmin', were the grass Was thin enough ter let er chipminh pass, Al' in a place there wer'n't no gittin' in-He must be sort or fooliab, were their view!

But when the city feiter came erlong An seen thet view, it tak him mighty strong. An Silah shel the everlanth' shall To sail aim more en if 'twas medder land; Ito sei his price, by goshi. He gut it ton; Nigh four seen thousand duhars. for thet view:

Then fills went up further, to the top, But on the thet he bound he did not care; He wanted light an 'scenery an' fresh sir. How, he collects his interest, when it's due, An sets there smokin' an enjes the view! — Harry Romaine, in Ladies' Home Journal.

## THE OTHER WOMAN.

The Unpleasant Consequence Clarence's Carelesaness.

The Wagner sleeper joited slowly out of the brilliantly lighted depot and its red rear lamps disappeared into the night, leaving behind the merry party of wedding guests who stood watching the receding train.

The handsome soung counts who a

The handsome young couple who a noment before stood in the doorway of he sleeping car, laughing back at the oteric of friends who were shouting many parting injunctions after them, now dropped side by side upon the vel-vet cushloned seat of a rear compart-ment. The flushed and fluttered little cride was dainty and sweet in a becoming thing of gray, which had replaced her lovely bridal gown of purest white. She sank wearily upon the sofa seat beside her manly companion, glad of the first moment of respite she had en-joyed in hours; glad that they were at inst off on their wedding journey. Their senses had been kept in a con-

stant whirl by the strain and excite-ment of the day, and so fast had events been unfolding themselves that they could scarcely realize what was hap-pening. The whole thing had the vagueness of an intoxicating dream. If they had suddenly found themselves pursuing the old familiar round of life. pursuing the old familiar round of life, meither would have experienced greater surprise than is felt by the man who is rudely wakened from a delicious fancy of sleep. The prospect of a quiet respite from the constant, annoying, but well-meaning attentions of friends, and of being alone together, the libration of the properties of the state thrilled each with a sensation of de-

ompartment where a half minute ago its modest light was drowned in the powerful brilliancy of the depot elec-tric candles, which shone through the windows. A passenger was growling at a porter in the corridor. Another white-capped porter was moving up and down between the buffet and smoking-room, carrying suspicious-leading packages. At the end of the car the conductor was explaining to a passenger where he could make connection. In a neighboring compartment a mother was trying to quiet a rectul child. A young lady, not yet roady to retire although it was near midnight, had scatch herself upon one of the fooling scata in the narrow corri-der and was easierly perusing a new novel. In the emolting-room, two or three men were smalring and talking as men will talk until the end of the

To all these people it seemed a very commorphics bit of travel; to the compression the pink-lighted com-artment, it was the journey of their

The train was proceeding tentative; now spurting off as if determined a do or die, and now bringing to with a sudden jerk, stepping beside a hiss-ing engine which was bumping a long line of cars together. At such stop whice talk of the lantorn-bearing yardmen could be heard beside the sleeper win-

In the first moment of their blissful quiet, the young couple eaught each other's hands (a trick that lovers have) and their eyes, filled with the light of love, tact. Even now the day's events love, met. Even now the day's events had the semblance of a dream. The carriage, the crush at the church, the the minister, the ceremony, the torrent of congratulations, the reception, the hurrying to the train-it was too unlike the rest of their lives to be anything but a dream. And yet it was true! The ponderous sleeper was recking over the

To the lives of all men there comes an hour, a day, perhaps, of sweetest, completest bilsa. To the young man with the bride, this hour had come. His senses were thrilling with a de liciou feeling of a man who has just married the woman he loves. It was the first time be had been alone with her for days; the preparations for the wedding had kept them apart, but now she was his-his! Not for a day, nor a week-for a lifetime! It seemed a very ng time, and just now it appeared in all the reseate lines in which happy youth sees the future. Now that she was his she was different, but not less dear in his eyes. He was a deep and an earnest man, and this was the first

reathappiness he had ever feit.
Her soft hands were clasped in his. "Ob, Clarence," she cried, "I am so glad it's over!

"I am so glad you are mine!" he said, warmly.
"It was so trying," she said, turning her glad eyes upon him, "I do hope it all went off well; I was so badly ex-cited that I could not tell. I must have

ooled awfully frightened."

"You looked like an augel," he said.
"I wanted to squeeze you all the time."

"You big boy!" she said. "You are "You big boy!" she said. "You are married now and mustn't be foolish. If you think I looked well, I don't cure for the others. But," are added, "how could you tell—you were frightened, Marence

"Do you think so, dearest?"

"It was like a dream," he answered;
"It half doubted its reality. I was thinking of what a lucky fellow I was to get you, my angel."

Clarence klased her. Some poet speaks of the routing together of two couls to leave? I keep and meeting there

souls to lovers' lips and meeting there in a kiss. This bard has received flat-tering indorsement from a thousand pairs of young lovers. How the kiss of love thrills the blood of youth! How it condenses all the sweetness of a life-time into one cestatic moment. Other allow bargage to be held for inspec-hours may well afford to be dult since their mastar is compressed, into the low-their mastar is compressed, into the low-

ers' kiss. 'Let the performe or time swing slowly when young lovers meet in the electric touch of a kiss, in the poetry of melted glances, in the elequent pressing of hands.

The train pass ed a familiar street whose long line of glimmering lights stretched as far as the sight could reach, affording a passing glimpse of a massive church, black and gloomy looking, towering into the night.

To the two young people who saw it from the window of the passing train it would always be a dear spot.

"Doesn't it look deserted, now?" she cried, "I wonder if they took all the pretty decorations away?"

The train had proceeded haltingly at first, but now as it neared the suburbs

first, but now as it neared the subu it was dancing along at a fair speed. It shot past side streets, running off into the durk; the gloom here and there was illuminated by the red lights of salcons and billiard halls. Sleepy looking po-licemen and watchmen stood at the

corners.
It did not once occur to the happy young couple in the sleeper that the world was pursuing its daily round, just as if they had not been married at all. To them, everything seemed to have caught the spirit of the happiness that were experiencing. The lights have caught the spirit of the happiness they were experiencing. The lights blushed with a sympathetic glove the train rumbled slong musically. Even the passengers must feel that this was an extraordinary occasion. And the world outside that was reeling past the windows; here bristling with numberless lights, and there running off into involves blockness and decomposition. hopeless blackness and gloom, seemed full of new beauty. "Are you very happy, Mabel?" he

nulred.

"Very," she said, "and are you quite sure that you are as happy as if it had been Laura Deane instead of me?"

He laughed. "I never asked her to secupt the honor," he said. "Perhaps she would not have appreciated it if I had. As it is, I am more than satisfied."
"Did you think she looked pretty to-

night?" Mabel asked: "I suspected that she felt a pang of jealousy as she stood beside me. Wouldn't both of you have esisle me. Wouldn't both of you have een glad if she had been in my place? she added tensingly. "I do not suppose such thoughts are keeping her awake," Clarence said,

"but I do fear that poor Jimmie Frank-lin's alumbers are badly disturbed to-night, ch?" night, eh?"
"Do you think so? I am sorry if it troubles him. I only hope that he is quite as happy as I am."
"I used to think you had a tenderness for Jimmie," he said. "It may

have been jenlousy in me."
"I never cared for anyone but you,"
she replied. "I didn't care a snap for a single one of the gentlemen who paid

me attention. You were the only

Clarence."
The lights of the city had vanished behind. The train was rouring along through the night. The gloomy world lay as cep; the locomotive dashed along like a great, restless monster on some m-mentous errand. The semaphore signal and the operator's light at a wayside station flashed by the window. With his arm about her, Clarence drew her head to his shoulder. To have her all his own for the rest of his life was joy enough for him. Uncon-sciously, his mind ran ahead into the future; he saw themselves living hap-pily together, loving each other none the less after the passage of years. Maturity had added sweeter charms to her. Through all the years to come she would listen for his footfall coming home and would meet him at the door

with a smile and a kiss. His wife! His pulses throbbed delightfully at bought. Neither spoke. He was filled with bilisful reveries. She, tired and weary, was resting her head confiding-

were together.
Cally the monotonous marmur of the train broke the silence. The passengers had sought retlef from weariness a slumbers and the only light that

train of thought into which he had fallen, he stooped to kiss her. The brown head was drooped so low upon his erro that the face was quite bidden her eyes looked straight into his. A slivery tear glistened upon her lashes. The look she turned upon him was one be could not understand. They gazed mutely at each other for an instant, then his eyes dropped to her folded hands. While he was thinking of the future, she had slipped his watch from

is positet.
Ent it was not upon the dial that she had been gazing. While she had been resting so passively in his arms she was looking at the picture of a beautiful woman-not her picture-glued fast to the inside of the case He took the watch from her hand

juickly, and his eyes fell before the look of earnest inquiry in hers. She did not speak. "That—that—pleture," he stammered, "that's—that's, ah—that's a

friend of my sister's."

The brown head dropped back upon his shoulder she was sobbing half tearfully. She refused to look up to ilm or speak. "Oh, Clarence," she cried, "Why

And this was the beginning of his married life.—R. L. Adamson, in Ablanta Constitution. GREAT BEND, Kan., Dec 23.—This city will not be behind her neighbors in leoking after her poor this Christmas. A movement has been started which will no doubt send 2000 on a joyus mission to the homes of misfortune. cash, also provisions have been aired The musicians and clo

the missions and elocation-lets on a week's notice are preparing a con-set for Wednesday evening, which will swell the fund. Great Bend lodge 137, A. O. U. W., achieved considerable distinction by dispensing with their amount languet and inst ad contribu-ting \$15 to the cause. "calth Inspection Law Killed.

Mealth Inspection Law Killed. Liansisso, Mich., Dec. 25.—The Michten health board has just leen given a or life back-set by the supreme court he Minneapolis, St. Louis & Sault Marie railway refused to inspect jumple r allow the board to inspect immi-rants' harry go at the "Soo," The cults tourd asked the court for a

